

REMARKS

Claims 60-72 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 60-62, 71 and 72 are amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following remarks is requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 60-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 60 and 71 are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 60-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicants Admitted Prior Art at pp. 1-2 of the specification and Figs. 25-26 (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,531,191 (Notenboom) and in view of EP 0930641 (EP 641); and claim 65 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over AAPA in view of Notenboom and EP 641 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,710,072 (Shrader). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 60 recites "gasifying a first part of the first solvent component from each of the first and second droplets," and "gasifying a first part of the second solvent component from the third droplet."

Independent claim 71 recites "gasifying a first part of the first solvent component from the first droplet," and "gasifying a first part of the second solvent component from the second droplet."

At least these features of claims 60 and 71 are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the applied references, in any combination. In particular, Notenboom describes at col. 3, lines 60-63, that "a thin ceramic layer 9 is formed which blends properly with the layer 7, which has already been sintered (FIG. 1a)." Accordingly, Notenboom does not include the partial vaporization, as described in claims 60 and 71 of the presently claimed invention. That is,

Notenboom fails to disclose, teach or suggest "gasifying a first part of the first solvent component from each of the first and second droplets," and "gasifying a first part of the second solvent component from the third droplet," as recited in claim 60; and fails to disclose, teach or suggest "gasifying a first part of the first solvent component from the first droplet," and "gasifying a first part of the second solvent component from the second droplet," as recited in claim 71.

EP 641 fails to remedy the deficiencies of Notenboom. Instead, EP 641 discloses that "when other droplets fall on the droplets experiencing surface tension, the surface tension prevents the two types of droplets from intermixing..." See paragraph [0119] of EP 641. If the surface tension of the droplets cannot be used, the invention of EP 641 would not be completed.

As a result, neither Notenboom nor EP 641 discloses the partial vaporization as recited in claims 60 and 71. AAPA and Shrader fail to cure the above noted deficiencies of Notenboom and EP 641. Thus, AAPA, Notenboom, EP 641 and Shrader, in any combination, fail to render obvious the subject matter of claims 60 and 71. Claims 61-70 and 72 depend from claims 60 and 71, respectively. Claims 61-70 and 72 are thus allowable for the same reasons as claims 60 and 71, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/hs

Date: May 7, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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